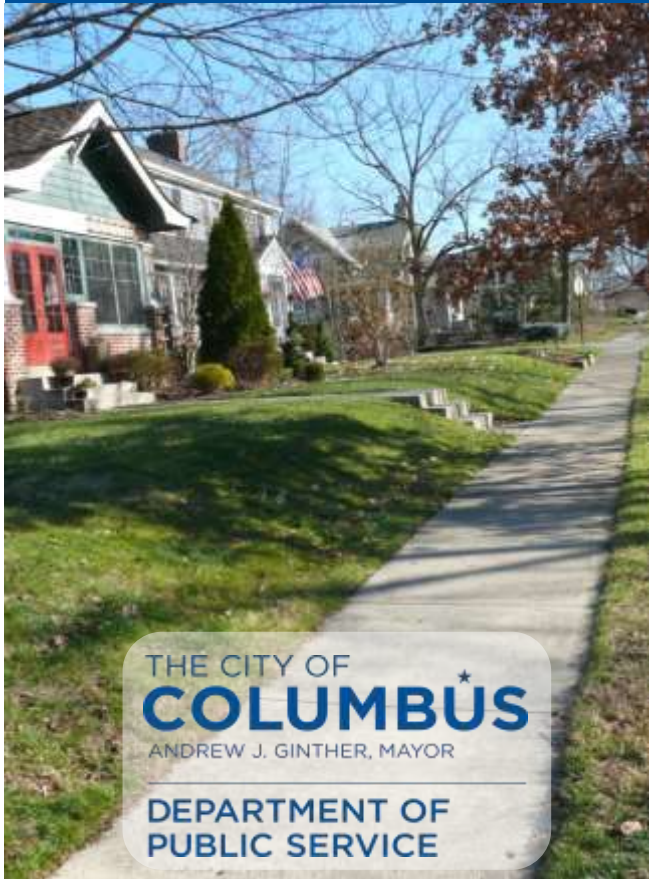


# Sidewalk Rescue

## *Sidewalk Repair Reimbursement Program*

*(Details of eligibility inside)*

A Partnership between  
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther  
and  
Columbus City Council



## Sidewalk Rescue

**Program purpose:** To make funds available to low income residential property owners and Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) district small business owners to help them make sidewalk repairs.

### **Amount of reimbursement:**

- ✓ A maximum of \$1,500-or the amount of the required repairs, whichever is less.
- ✓ Reimbursements are dependent on the availability of funds.
- ✓ If the reimbursement amount does not cover the entire cost of the repair, the property owner will be responsible for the remaining balance.

### **How to apply for a reimbursement:**

- ✓ Download the application from the Department of Public Service's website ([www.columbus.gov/publicservice/Sidewalk-Repair-Grant-Program/](http://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/Sidewalk-Repair-Grant-Program/)) or contact 311.
- ✓ Mail or deliver completed application to Public Service at the address shown below.
- ✓ Public Service will notify the applicant, usually within two weeks, of eligibility.

Department of Public Service  
Sidewalk Rescue  
50 W. Gay Street, Room 520  
Columbus, OH 43215-9005  
**Office :** (614) 645-3111  
**Email:** [311@Columbus.gov](mailto:311@Columbus.gov)

### **Program requirements:**

- ✓ Only expenses to repair items specifically stated in the Notice of Violation letter are eligible for reimbursement.
- ✓ Repairs eligible for reimbursement can be made by the property owner (the property owner does not hire a company to do the work) or by a company on the City's approved contractor list for Sidewalk Rescue repairs.
- ✓ If the property owner does not make the repairs, the City will contract with a company on the City's approved contractor list for Sidewalk Rescue repairs to make the repairs.
- ✓ Property owners that make their own repairs will need receipts for all expenses for which they are claiming reimbursement.
- ✓ The property owner will be responsible for paying charges for the repairs in excess of the reimbursement amount.
- ✓ If the property owner cannot or does not want to pay the balance of the charges for the repair made by the City's contractor, the City will pay the remaining balance after the reimbursement amount is applied. The amount paid by the City will be assessed against property taxes.
- ✓ The City is required to report any funds distributed under Sidewalk Rescue to the IRS as taxable income. Anyone eligible for Sidewalk Rescue funds will be required to complete a Form W9 before receiving any funds.

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
CITY COUNCIL

## Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Property or business owner must have received a violation letter requiring the owner to repair the sidewalk, curb, and/or driveway apron.
- ✓ The property or business owner must meet both income and property requirements, explained below and in the next section.

## Properties eligible for the sidewalk rescue reimbursement:

- ✓ Eligible properties are residential single-family owner-occupied properties located within the City of Columbus corporate limits or small business enterprises located within one of the City's six Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Districts. The small business enterprise must be the owner of the property.
- ✓ The applicant must have owned and occupied the property for at least 12 months prior to the time of the reimbursement application.
- ✓ Property taxes must be current at the time of application or the owner must be on a verifiable payment plan with the Franklin County Auditor's Office.
- ✓ Property owners must not be delinquent on taxes or other money owed to the City of Columbus.

## Application Deadlines

- ✓ Applications must be received by 7/31/17 to ensure the property is put into the reimbursement program.
- ✓ Applications received after 7/31/17 will be considered but are not guaranteed to be put into the reimbursement program.

## Income eligibility requirements for the sidewalk rescue reimbursement:

- ✓ Eligible households must have a total household income of 80% or less of the area median income (AMI) as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with adjustments for household size.
- ✓ Total residential household income includes the income of all people 18 years of age and older living in the home at least 50% of the year. The HUD AMI is calculated annually. As of March 28, 2016, the HUD AMI eligibility limits are:

Family Members	Yearly Income (Gross)
One	\$ 39,000
Two	\$ 44,600
Three	\$ 50,150
Four	\$ 55,700
Five	\$ 60,200
Six	\$ 64,650
Seven	\$ 69,100
Eight	\$ 73,550

- ✓ Small business owners in NCR Districts must meet the Small Business Size Standards by NAICS Industry established by the United States Small Business Administration. These can be found at :

<http://bit.ly/smallbusinesssizestandards>

## Steps to apply for the sidewalk rescue reimbursement:

- 1** A Sidewalk Notice of Violation packet is received by the property owner stating repairs must be made.
- 2** Property owner downloads the Sidewalk Rescue application packet from the Department of Public Service's website or contacts 311 to receive it.
- 3** Property owner completes application packet and submits it to Public Service.
- 4** Public Service verifies eligibility and informs property owner of reimbursement amount.
- 5** A company from the approved contractor list is selected to do the work.
- 6** The reimbursement amount is applied to the contractor invoice.
- 7** Property owner pays any remaining balance, or the City pays the remaining balance and the amount the City paid becomes a property tax assessment.

